VII. CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A contrast media for use in imaging an individual's anatomic segment comprising: a contrast agent; said contrast media having a Hounsfield value from about -500 to about 250.

2. The contrast media of claim 1, wherein the Hounsfield value is about 1 to about 200.

3. The contrast media of claim 1, wherein the Hounsfield value is about 5 to about 45.

4. The contrast media of claim 1, wherein the Hounsfield value is about 15 to about 35.

5. The contrast media of claim 1, wherein the Hounsfield value is about 20 to abut 30.

6. The contrast media of claim 1, wherein the concentration of the contrast agent is less than 2% by weight.

7. The contrast media of claim 1, wherein the concentration of the contrast agent is from about 0.01% to about 0.8% w/v.

8. The contrast media of claim 1, wherein the concentration of the contrast agent is from about 0.01% to about 0.5% w/v.

9. The contrast media of claim 1, wherein the concentration of the contrast agent is from about 0.1% to about 0.5% w/v.

10. The contrast media of claim 1, wherein the concentration of the contrast agent is from about 0.01% to about 0.2% w/v.

11. The contrast media of claim 1, wherein the contrast agent comprises a barium-based compound.

12. The contrast media of claim 11, wherein the barium-based compound is barium sulfate.

13. The contrast media of claim 1, wherein the contrast agent comprises an iodine-based compound.

14. The contrast media of claim 1, wherein the contrast agent comprises a gadolinium-based compound.

15. The contrast media of claim 1, further comprising a stabilizing agent.

16. The contrast media of claim 1, further comprising an osmotic agent.

17. The contrast media of claim 1, further comprising about 0.005% to about 40% of a stabilizing agent.

18. The contrast media of claim 1, further comprising about 0.05% to about 10% xanthan gum.

19. The contrast media of claim 1, further comprising about 0.005% to about 60% of an osmotic agent.

20. The contrast media of claim 19, wherein the osmotic agent comprises a sugar-based compound.

21. The contrast media of claim 20, wherein the sugar-based compound comprises a monosaccharide, disaccharide or polysaccharide.

22. The contrast media of claim 21, wherein the polysaccharide comprises sorbitol.

23. A contrast media for use in imaging an individual's anatomic segment comprising less than 2 w/v% of a barium-based compound; about 0.05% to about 15% of a stabilizing agent and about 1% to about 25% of an osmotic agent.

24. The contrast media of claim 23, wherein the stabilizing agent comprises xanthan gum and the osmotic agent is sorbitol.

25. The contrast media of claim 23, comprising about 0.001% to about 0.5% barium-based compound; about 0.05% to about 1% xanthan gum and about 0.05% to about 5% sorbitol.

26. The contrast media of claim 23, wherein the contrast media is provided in an aqueous suspension.

27. The contrast media of claim 23, comprising about 0.01% to about 30% of a stabilizing agent.

28. The contrast media of claim 23, wherein the contrast agent comprises gadolinium based compound.

29. The contrast media of claim 23, comprising about 0.05% to about 60% of an osmotic agent.

30. The contrast media of claim 23, wherein the osmotic agent is a sugar-based compound.

31. The contrast media of claim 30, wherein the sugar-based compound is a monosaccharide, disaccharide or polysaccharide.

32. The contrast media of claim 31, wherein the polysaccharide is sorbitol.

33. The contrast media of claim 23, comprising about 0.001% to about 5% barium-based compound; about 0.01% to about 5% xanthan gum and about 1% to about 15% sorbitol.

34. A method of performing a diagnostic procedure comprising:

(a) administering a contrast media to an individual; said contrast media comprising a contrast agent, said contrast media having a Hounsfield value from about -500 to about 250; and

(b) performing the medical or diagnostic procedure on the individual during or after administering the contrast media to the individual.

35. The method of claim 34, where the contrast media has a Hounsfield value from about -500 to about 100.

36. The method of claim 34, wherein the Hounsfield value is about 1 to about 200.

37. The method of claim 34, wherein the Hounsfield value is about 5 to about 45.

38. The method of claim 34, wherein the Hounsfield value is about 15 to about 35.

39. The method of claim 34, wherein the Hounsfield value is about 20 to abut 30.

40. The method of claim 34, wherein the concentration of the contrast agent is less than 2% by weight.

41. The method of claim 34, wherein the concentration of the contrast agent is from about 0.01% to about 0.8% w/v.

42. The method of claim 34, wherein the concentration of the contrast agent is from about 0.01% to about 0.5% w/v.

43. The method of claim 34, wherein the concentration of the contrast agent is from about 0.1% to about 0.5% w/v.

44. The method of claim 34, wherein the concentration of the contrast agent is from about 0.01% to about 0.2% w/v.

45. A method of imaging an anatomic segment of an individual comprising the steps of: (a) administering a contrast media comprising a contrast agent; said contrast media having a Hounsfield value from about -500 to about 250; (b) conducting an imaging procedure to obtain the image of the individual's anatomic segment during or after administering the contrast media to the individual; and (c) generating the image of the anatomic segment.

46. The method of claim 45, wherein at least a portion of the gastrointestinal tract is imaged.

47. The method of claim 45, wherein the small intestine is imaged.

48. The method of claim 45, wherein the colon is imaged.

49. The method of claim 45, wherein the pancreas is imaged.

50. The method of claim 45, wherein the duodenum is imaged.

51. The method of claim 45, wherein the cecum is imaged.

52. The method of claim 45, wherein the bowel is imaged.

53. The method of claim 45, wherein the large intestine is imaged.

54. The method of claim 45, wherein the jejunum is imaged.

55. The method of claim 45, wherein the ileum is imaged.

56. The method of claim 45, wherein the appendix is imaged.

57. The method of claim 45, wherein the pancreas is imaged.

58. The method of claim 45, wherein the duodenum is imaged.

59. The method of claim 45, wherein the sigmoid is imaged.

60. The method of claim 45, wherein the rectum is imaged.

61. The method of claim 45, wherein the stomach is imaged.

62. A method of diagnosing a disease in an individual comprising: (a) administering to said individual a contrast media comprising a contrast agent; said contrast media having a Hounsfield value from about -500 to about 250; (2) conducting an imaging procedure to obtain the image of an individual's anatomic segment; (3) generating the image of the anatomic segment; and (4) evaluating the images to diagnose the presence of the disease.

63. The method of claim 62, wherein said disease is selected from the group consisting of ulcerations, lesions and tumors.

64. The method of claim 62, wherein said disease is cancer.

65. The method of claim 62, wherein said disease is inflammatory bowel disease, Crohn's Disease, ulcerative colitis or irritable bowel syndrome.

66. The method of claim 62, wherein said disease is a disease of the pancreas, spleen, liver or gall bladder.

67. The method of claim 62, wherein said disease is a disease of the lymph nodes.

68. The method of claim 62, wherein said disease is a disease of the vascular system.

69. A method of delineating the lumen of an anatomic segment of an individual for a medical or diagnostic procedure, said method comprising the steps of: (a) providing a contrast media into the lumen of the individual's anatomic segment to facilitate delineation of the anatomic segment; said contrast media having a Houndsfield value from -500 to about 250.

70. A method of distending an anatomic segment of an individual for a medical or diagnostic procedure comprising the steps of: (a) providing a contrast media into the lumen of the individual's anatomic segment to facilitate distention of the anatomic segment.; said contrast media having a Houndsfield value from about -500 to about 250.

71. The method of claims 69-70, wherein said anatomic segment is the gastrointestinal tract.

72. The method of claims 69-70, wherein said anatomic segment is the small intestine.

73. The method of claims 69-70, wherein said anatomic segment is the large intestine.

74. The method of claims 69-70, wherein said anatomic segment is the colon.

75. The method of claims 69-70, wherein said anatomic segment is the bowel.

76. The method of claims 69-70, wherein, said contrast media has a Hounsfield value from about -500 to about 100.

77. The method of claims 69-70, wherein the Hounsfield value is about 1 to about 200.

78. The method of claims 69-70, wherein the Hounsfield value is about 5 to about 45.

79. The method of claims 69-70, wherein the Hounsfield value is about 15 to about 35.

80. The method of claims 69-70, wherein the Hounsfield value is about 20 to abut 30.

81. The method of claims 69-70, wherein the concentration of the contrast agent is less than 2% by weight.

82. The method of claims 69-70, wherein the concentration of the contrast agent is from about 0.01% to about 0.8% w/v.

83. The method of claims 69-70, wherein the concentration of the contrast agent is from about 0.01% to about 0.5% w/v.

84. The method of claims 69-70, wherein the concentration of the contrast agent is from about 0.1% to about 0.5% w/v.

85. The method of claims 69-70, wherein the concentration of the contrast agent is from about 0.01% to about 0.2% w/v.